

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00409 171820Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 /059 W

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R 171526Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG FR SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: FIVE MISSING FRENCH YOUTHS

1. WE UNDERSTAND AFP ALGIERS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND THAT IT HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED IN ALGIERS THAT THE FIVE FRENCH YOUTHS WHO DISAPPEARED IN SAHARA IN JANUARY ARE DEAD. ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE REPORTED FEB 16 DENIAL IN PARIS BY POLISARIO SPOKESMAN HAKIM ADEL OF ANY POLISARIO KNOWLEDGE OF FATE OF FIVE YOUTHS. ADEL POINTED OUT THAT AREA IN WHICH YOUTHS SAID TO HAVE DISAPPEARED WAS UNDER TOTAL CONTROL OF MOROCCAN ARMY AND THAT MOROCCANS WERE THEREFORE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENT.

2. FOREIGN NEWSMAN HERE CHECKED AFP STORY WITH GOA SOURCE. SOURCE DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT "OFFICIAL" CONFIRMATION CITED IN AFP STORY HAD COME FROM ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT. GOA TAKES POSITION, ACCORDING TO NEWSMAN'S SOURCE, THAT SINCE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN SAHARA, IT WAS NOT GOA'S AFFAIR AND THAT THEREFORE GOA WOULD SAY NOTHING EVEN IF IT KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO YOUTHS. NEWSMAN'S SOURCE ADDED THAT GOA IN FACT KNEW NOTHING ABOUT YOUTHS' FATE OR WHEREABOUTS BUT ASKED NEWSMAN NOT TO REPORT THIS. PARKER

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00409 171820Z

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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